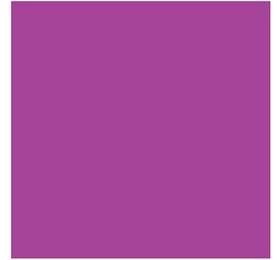


Activities

US Centre of ITI / TCG (Americas)



Activities of the US Centre of ITI

Since 1999, Theatre Communications Group (TCG) has served as the U.S. Center of ITI, fully complementing TCG's existing programming. Global Citizenship is one of TCG's four core values (Artistry, Advocacy, Diversity and Global Citizenship), underscoring TCG's belief that the future of the U.S. professional not-for-profit theatre requires a connection to the larger international network of theatres, artists and other cultural leaders.

Today, TCG & ITI-U.S.'s international activities seek to create, nurture and develop reciprocal artistic relationships to inspire creative process and aesthetics by:

Creating cross border learning opportunities by:

- providing travel grants for artists to form international relationships;
- encouraging cultural exchange at the TCG National Conference

Representing the diversity of US artistry and the global artistic community by:

- serving as the U.S. Center of ITI and taking leadership positions within ITI activities;
- connecting theatre professionals internationally;
- publishing extensive coverage of international work in American Theatre magazine.

Advocating for cultural exchange and artists' rights worldwide by:

- issuing peer consultation letters for international visa petitions;
- partnering with cultural organizations and government agencies;
- playing an active role within the U.S. Performing Arts Alliance

Programs and Activities

- **The Global Connections grant program** was designed by TCG and is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Recipients regularly post blogs on TCG's Circle to share their learning with colleagues across the U.S. and globally. Some posts

by recent recipients:

- **Quinn Bauriedel of Pig Iron** goes to Bangkok to collaborate with Arts on Location, an arts consortium that brings together global theatre practitioners for artistic and cultural exchange. <http://www.tcgcircle.org/2014/01/arresting-moments-of-theatre/>
- **Mashuq Deen travels with Meetu Chilana and Rita Suri** to Amritsar, Chandigarh and Delhi, India to work with Roopak Kala and Welfare Society, a theatre troupe and social activist organization, on the development of a work about the anti-Sikh riots in 1984 and to engage in dialogue with those most affected by the massacre. <http://www.tcgcircle.org/2013/08/the-1984-project-part-2/>
- **Park Krausen of Théâtre du Rêve brings Béleck Georges of Haiti to Atlanta, GA** to create a dialogue with young artists and Atlanta-based professionals in a five-day workshop, exploring their artistic and socio-political voices. <http://www.tcgcircle.org/2014/09/each-meeting-is-a-new-birth/>
- **Advocacy efforts around immigration and visa issues** include Peer Consultations (visa support letters), and teleconference and webinars to demystify the visa process and the U.S. Dept of State.
- **TCG has produced videos and national promotional strategies for World Theatre Day** with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage, Tony Award-winning actor Jeffrey Wright, noted U.S. theatre maker Diane Rodriguez and emerging U.S. theatre artists and students. Award-winning actor John Malkovich was the International World Theatre Day author in 2012.

Delegations:

TCG has a robust history of international exchange and regularly facilitating delegations of U.S. theatre practitioners to travel to other countries. This travel plays an integral role in strengthening theatre's power and relevance as a universal art form and enhances TCG's ability to unite theatre workers globally.

Left: U.S. and Mexico Speed Dating at the Encuentro. Right: Encuentro participants on the Mexico side of U.S. - Tijuana, Mexico border

Activities

US Centre of ITI / TCG (Americas)

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Foreground, Dora Arreola, Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro

Recent delegations include: 20 U.S. theatre practitioners, managers, and professors met Cuban performing artists and cultural leaders in Havana, Santa Clara, and Cienfuegos; Ashland, Oregon-based ensemble Universes, performed and led workshops as part of the 2013 Albugaa International Theatre Festival; a third delegation representing the diversity of the American not-for-profit theatre community, festivals, training programs and cultural organizations participated in the Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogotá (FITB); Charlotte Tiencken, Managing Director of Seattle's Book-It Theatre was invited by ITI China to represent the U.S. at the BeSeTo Festival in Xiamen; TCG presented its Audience (R)Evolution program findings and selected case studies at the 2014 Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (GAM) Annual Conference in Santiago, Chile.

Convenings:

TCG/ITI-U.S. has a long history of producing convenings to nurture, develop and exchange knowledge about international exchange.

In June, 2014, TCG produced, Crossing Borders: International Artistic Collaboration Encuentro, in Tijuana, Mexico with help from partners at the Mexican Consulate, El Centro Cultural de Tijuana (CECUT) and a task force of U.S. theatre professionals. This convening challenged both the practical and conceptual barriers to strengthening the theatre field's vitality. U.S. theatre professionals journeyed to engage with Mexican theatre artists from Mexico City, Guadalajara and Tijuana. Mexican artists included Martin Acosta, director; Dora Arreola, Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro; Victor Carpinteiro, El Círculo Teatral; Adolfo Madera, Estacion Teatro; Sofía Olmos, Solo Performer; Jesús Quintero and Ramón Verdugo, Tijuana Hace Teatro; Enrique Singer, UNAM; Claudio Valdés Kuri, Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes and others.

The programming included: Borderfest, written by Daniel Jaquez (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico/New York, U.S.) and performed by Herbert Siguenza (San Diego, U.S.) and Victor Carpinteiro (Mexico City,

Mexico); Artist Speed Dating: bursts of conversations between U.S. and Mexican artists; Support Networks and Resources Session - Mexican structures for international partnerships; Creating Work and Engaging the Community Session - focusing on Tijuana Hace Teatro's Audience School; Tour and History of Friendship Park on the U.S./Mexico border; Antigona en la Frontera - performance excerpt directed by Dora Arreola, Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro.

Communications and Publications:

- TCG's American Theatre Magazine features a monthly "Global Spotlight" column, and the May/June 2012, 2013 and 2014 issues again previewed theatre festivals worldwide and featured articles by American theatre artists abroad.
- The TCG Circle has become an invaluable resource for the field when it comes to tracking international exchanges and other hotbed issues regarding the global theatre community. The Crossing Borders Salon, inspired by World Theatre Day and the Crossing Borders conference features articles and essays written by Mexican and Canadian theatre artists.
- As a publisher of new plays and emerging playwrights, TCG Books, now representing over 1,600 titles, has a dual objective: to bring new literary voices to public attention and to cultivate individual relationships with playwrights that nurture their careers. TCG also serves as the exclusive U.S. distributor for Playwrights Canada Press of Toronto and London publishers Nick Hern Books, Aurora Metro Publications and Oberon Books. The English-language translation of Chilean playwright Guillermo Calderon's Neva will be released in 2014.